

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Peace Lutheran Church

May 10, 2020

**AS WE GATHER.....** “The fruit of the Spirit is.....Kindness.” People often ask themselves, “What can I do to make a difference in this world?” Answers to this question are hard to find. What we can say is that God’s act of loving-kindness in the sending of His Son, Jesus, has made the difference. And knowing how much of a difference Jesus’ coming has made, we are encouraged to practice kindness in life. Who is one person that you can show kindness to today?

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### READINGS

Old Testament: Micah 6:6-8

Reader: The Old Testament lesson is from Micah chapter 6.

Reader: “With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:7-14

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

Reader: Now (Jesus) told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN “How Firm a Foundation” (verses 1 and 4 only)

MESSAGE “Spiritual Wellness: Kindness”

**MESSAGE NOTES**

Rate each of the following: *Almost Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 Almost Always*

\_\_\_\_\_ The Spirit faithfully gives me the joy of kindness displayed in my genuine words and actions to others.

\_\_\_\_\_ I display a healthy curiosity about what I might learn from the wisdom of others.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am learning to speak only truthful words that will build up those who hear. (Ephesians 4:25, 29)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Kindness  
God is teaching me that.....

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Leader: Heavenly Father, You have appointed Your Church to be a city on a hill, shining the light of Your kindness into the world and gathering Your own to receive Your precious gifts of forgiveness, life and mercy. Use us joyfully to receive Your kindness and then share it with others. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, through the prophets You declare that the fasting You accept is to share our food with the hungry and our homes with the homeless. Guard us from self-absorption, gluttony and other vices that prevent us from extending Your bounty to those less fortunate. Grant shelter to those who have none, food to those who hunger and honest work to the unemployed. Use Your people to extend Your mercy, and lift us to the joy of sharing our daily bread. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, Your mercies are new to us every morning, and yet we often know the pain of sickness, injury, sorrow and other frailties. In Your never-failing mercy and kindness, remember those who have requested our intercessions, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that they might have healing and wholeness according to Your will and grace to entrust themselves to Your merciful hands as they endure with courage and hope whatever crosses and afflictions You are pleased to allow. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy. We prayer these things through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.  
**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL: Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN                      "For the Beauty of the Earth"**

## **CLOSING ADMONITION**

Leader: In describing the woman who fears the Lord and is a blessing to those around her, Proverbs says, "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." This wisdom reminds us that kindness is a fruit of the Spirit that benefits from cultivation. Finding ways to be kind is a lifelong occupation. Also in Proverbs, we read this word that includes a divine promise, "Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor."

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader: The Lord bless us and keep us.  
The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.  
The Lord look upon us with favor and give + us peace.  
**People: Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**